

in this issue

\$13.4 million for Illinois libraries

ILEAD U at UIS

Institute for School & Public Librarians

Emerging Writers Competition

Synergy 2010



A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

INSIGHT

Secretary White awards \$13.4 million to Illinois libraries

Public libraries receive nearly \$12 million

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded fiscal year 2010 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants totaling nearly \$12 million to 612 public libraries serving more than 11 million patrons. Secretary White said he was pleased to be able to award the grants despite significant cuts to the grant program during last year's legislative session.

"The State of Illinois is facing a multi-billion dollar budget deficit, and cuts were made to the FY10 budgets of every Illinois constitutional officer, my office included," said White, "My original FY10 budget request included an increase in library funding. Unfortunately, the General Assembly's budget process resulted in severe cuts to programs such as the Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Program." In order to minimize the impact of these reductions on this very popular and important grant program, White replaced some of the reduced funds with money the library receives from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Per capita funding helps ensure that public libraries have some of the most important resources needed to address the needs of their patrons. Libraries count on the grants for expenses such as paying for materials, personnel, equipment, electronic access, telecommunications and technology. Equalization aid is important because it helps public libraries that have a low library tax base, and helps ensure a minimum level of funding for library services.

"I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois' public libraries provide to our communities," said White. "They have helped patrons enormously during these difficult economic times by providing free Internet access, e-mail, books, CDs, DVDs and other materials. Offering these services reinforces my belief that libraries are truly the cornerstones of our communities, and we must continue to support them now and into the future."

(continued on page 3)



DIGITAL TALKING BOOK MACHINES DISTRIBUTED —

State Library Talking Book and Braille Service staff has been busy distributing new digital talking book machines to patrons. Brittany Striplin (above) and other TBBS staff are checking in and circulating 1,200 digital machines each month (600 every two weeks). Even with the influx of new machines, the waiting list for patrons to receive a machine is four to five months.

March/April
2010

ILEAD U at UIS

The first three-day seminar for ILEAD U (Illinois Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover): the 21st Century Technology Tool Institute was held in February at the University of Illinois Springfield. The primary goal of ILEAD U is to help library staff understand and respond to patron needs through the use of participatory technology tools. Funding for ILEAD U is provided through a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant awarded to the Illinois State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Kevin Becker and Brook Weber of WebJunction Illinois spoke to ILEAD U participants.



Participants watched a presentation on digital imaging.



Dr. R. David Lankes of Syracuse University was the ILEAD U keynote speaker, discussing innovative ways to deliver information to citizens.

White reports library needs to General Assembly

Secretary of State Jesse White has delivered a report to the leaders of the General Assembly detailing the critical capital improvement needs of Illinois' public libraries. Nearly 500 public libraries that responded to a survey conducted by White's office reported more than \$800 million in capital needs for general repair work, building additions and new building construction.

"Illinois public libraries clearly welcomed the opportunity to respond to this capital needs assessment survey," said White. "The responding public libraries reporting a need for nearly \$805 million of capital expenditures indicates a great need for building improvements if our libraries are to continue to provide outstanding library services to the people of Illinois."

Secretary White was required to conduct the survey and file the report under a law enacted last year creating a new \$50 million bond-funded public library construction grant program to be administered by the Secretary of State's office. The office must file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all public libraries to the General Assembly every two years.

Of Illinois' 641 public libraries, 499 participated in the survey. Following are some of the most significant findings of the report:

- \$431.2 million needed for the construction of 75 new buildings.
- \$235.7 million needed for 80 building additions.
- \$137.5 million needed for general repair, remodeling and renovation.
- 75 library buildings are 100+ years old, while 141 library buildings are between 51 and 100 years old.
- 57 libraries reported that there have been no major capital upgrades to their facilities in the last 15 years. Included in that number are 36 libraries that have had no major capital upgrades in the last 25 years.
- Library attendance and the number of library cardholders continue to grow.

"I believe that the information contained in this report underscores the General Assembly's wisdom in including public library construction needs in the state's capital program," said Secretary White. "I hope that it will encourage the General Assembly to include public libraries in any future expansions of the state's capital construction program."

See the complete survey results at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click State Library then What's New).

Institute for School & Public Librarians

The 16th annual Institute for School and Public Librarians: Linking, Learning & Libraries will be held June 13-18 on the Bradley University campus in Peoria. The institute is geared toward those working directly with students/library patrons who have a broad variety of library responsibilities. It's most appropriate for those who are fairly new to the library field, or who believe they would benefit from the training. Priority is given to persons who do not have an advanced library degree but are in positions of responsibility.

Topics covered include readers advisory; issues in selecting and evaluating multicultural materials; getting kids excited about reading; collection management; dealing with diverse personalities; copyright law; developing effective programming for all ages; using technology to promote reading; grant writing; and security and safety in the library.

As part of the institute, Secretary of State Jesse White will honor Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein, a professor at Bradley University, for his support of reading and writing programs.

Synergy 2010 participants selected

Congratulations to the following individuals selected to take part in *Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2010*, the statewide library community's movement to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. The first three-day Synergy seminar will be held April 20-22 at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica. Synergy is sponsored by Shawnee Library System, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association.

Anthony Auston, Palatine Public Library District
Emily R. Compton-Dzak, Deerfield Public Library
John I. Ericson, Schaumburg Township District Library
John R. Fischer, Bloomington Public Library
Sue Foster, Rock Island Public Library
Ryan A. Franklin, Mattoon Public Library
Jeanne Hamilton, Helen Matthes Library, Effingham
Liz M. Hubert, Barrington Area Library
Lauren A. Jensen, Monmouth College Hewes Library, Monmouth
Robert Jones, Illinois State Library
Esmeralda M. Kale, Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University
Susan L. Kunkle, Forest Park Public Library
Kathy M. Ladell, Northlake Public Library District
Heather Love Beverley, Cook Memorial Public Library District, Libertyville
Laura A. Lowe, Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Lockport Branch Library, Lockport
Dianne L. Ludwig, Addison Public Library
Kathy Lynch, Chase Elementary School, Chicago
Courtney Anne O'Keefe, Des Plaines Public Library
Susan B. Parsons, Plainfield Public Library District
Kerrin K. Riley, Hinsdale Central High School
Christine M. Ross, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield
Deborah Shippy, Moline Public Library
Anne Slaughter, Oak Park Public Library
Liz Steffensen, Huntley Area Public Library
Carrie Straka, Vernon Area Public Library District, Lincolnshire
Penny S. Sympson, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Assoc., Inc., Northbrook
Andrea L. Vernola, Woodstock Public Library
Eric Werthmann, Acorn Public Library, Oak Forest
Frances Whaley, Jacobs Library, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby
Rita Ziemlo Perona, Elmhurst Public Library

Library grants (continued from page 1)

School district libraries receive nearly \$1.4 million

Secretary White also awarded fiscal year 2010 School District Library Program Grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 715 Illinois public school districts for their libraries. Nearly 2 million students served by school library media programs will benefit from the grants.

"Several studies have shown conclusively that students perform better in the classroom in school districts that have strong library media programs," said White. "Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I'm pleased that we can continue to provide school libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students." The grants may be used for library materials to support reading for academics and enjoyment, library subscriptions to electronic resources, or improved technology to support student research.



6th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book have announced that entries are now being accepted for the sixth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition for poets and short-story writers.

"I'm delighted that this competition has become such a highly respected and widely praised outlet for uncovering and recognizing new literary talent in the state," said Secretary White. "A number of our previous winners have been or will soon be published. Since its inception, the competition was designed to promote creative writing and encourage new authors to develop and share their talents. Their outstanding works are adding to Illinois' rich literary heritage."

The competition consists of two categories: the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and the James Jones Short Story Award. Three cash prizes will be awarded in both categories for original, unpublished works. Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein will select the winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, named for the late award-winning Illinois author and poet laureate. Kaylie Jones, the accomplished writer and daughter of James Jones, will choose the winners of the James Jones Short Story Award, named for the acclaimed late Illinois novelist and short-story writer.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over and runs through **June 30, 2010**. Entry forms, rules and other information are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf. There is a \$20 per submission charge, which goes toward the cash prizes.

Secretary White acknowledges the continued support of Kevin Stein and the James Jones Literary Society for their role in the success of the competition.

State Library staff news



RETIREMENTS

The State Library's Automation and Technology Division lost two longtime outstanding employees at the end of 2009 with the retirement of Donna Mayberry (left) and Connie Frankenfeld.

ISL SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Francie LaCamera, reference assistant — 35 years

Sue Burkholder, ILLINET/OCLC business manager; **Jane Knipmeyer**, library specialist, Technical Services Division; and **Sharon Layne**, Library Diversity Program — 25 years

Tango Miller, Chicago office special projects coordinator; **Sharon Ruda**, TBBS director; **Blaine Redemer**, Reference director; **Gwen Harrison**, network consultant, Library Development Group; and **Cherryl Walker**, Automation and Technology Division — 10 years

SAVE THE DATE

April 20-22

Synergy: The Library Leadership Initiative
Starved Rock Lodge, Utica

June 6-11

Small Public Library Management Institute
University of Illinois Springfield

June 13-18

Institute for School and Public Librarians
Bradley University, Peoria

June 15-17

ILEAD U

University of Illinois Springfield

**The Illinois State Library will be closed Monday,
May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.**

As reported in the January/February issue of *Insight*, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of its building at 300 S. Second St. in Springfield. See how *Insight* reported the building's 10-year celebration at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/insight_070800.pdf.



Insight
Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian
Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications
Department.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois • March 2010